Listing of the Claims

1. (Currently amended) Microspheres useful for embolization wherein said microspheres comprise crosslinked polyvinylalcohol ~~and~~ where said microspheres (a) have a diameter ranging from about 10 μm to about 2,000 μm, (b) are substantially spherical, (c) are substantially uniform in size and shape, (d) are sterile and (e) are in the form of a dry powder.

2. Cancelled.

3. Cancelled.

4. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1 wherein the diameter of said microspheres is in the range from about 50 μm to about 1,000 μm.

5. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1 wherein said microspheres further comprise a cell adhesion promoter.

6. (Original) The microspheres of claim 5 wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen, DEAE dextran, gelatin, glucosaminoglycans, fibronectin, lectins, polycations, a natural biological cell adhesion agent and a synthetic biological cell adhesion agent.

7. (Original) The microspheres of claim 6 wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen and DEAE dextran.

8. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1 wherein said microspheres further comprise a marking agent.

9. (Original) The microspheres of claim 8 wherein the marking agent is selected from the group consisting of a dye, an imaging agent and a contrasting agent.

10. (Original) The microspheres of claim 1, further comprising an anti-angiogenic agent.

11. (Currently amended) An injectable sterile suspension suitable for embolization, which comprises crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres that are substantially spherical, substantially uniform in size and shape, and have~~, having~~ a diameter ranging from about 10 μm to about 2,000 μm, and a suitable liquid carrier.

12. Cancelled.

13. Cancelled.

14. Cancelled.

15. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 11 wherein the diameter of the crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres are in the range from about 50 μm to about 1,000 μm.

16. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 11, wherein the crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres in the injectable suspension are comprised of from about 0.5% to about 20% crosslinked polyvinylalcohol by weight in hydrogel form.

17. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 11 wherein said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres further comprise a cell adhesion promoter.

18. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 17 wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen, DEAE dextran, gelatin, glucosaminoglycans, fibronectin, lectins, polycations, a natural biological cell adhesion agent and a synthetic biological cell adhesion agent.

19. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 11 wherein said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres further comprise a marking agent.

20. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 19 wherein the marking agent is selected from the group consisting of a dye, an imaging agent and a contrasting agent.

21. (Original) The injectable suspension of claim 11, further comprising an anti-angiogenic agent.

22. (Original) A method for prophylactic or therapeutic embolization in a mammal which comprises administering to said mammal in need of such embolization, an injectable suspension comprising an effective amount of crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres, having a diameter ranging from about 10 μm to about 2,000 μm, and a suitable liquid carrier.

23. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein the mammal is a human.

24. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres in the injectable suspension are substantially uniform in size and shape.

25. (Original) The method of claim 22, wherein the crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres in the injectable suspension are comprised of from about 0.5% to about 20% crosslinked polyvinylalcohol by weight in hydrogel form.

26. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres further comprise a cell adhesion promoter.

27. (Original) The method of claim 26 wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen, DEAE dextran, gelatin, glucosaminoglycans, fibronectin, lectins, polycations, a natural biological cell adhesion agents and a synthetic biological cell adhesion agent.

28. (Original) The method of claim 27 wherein the cell adhesion promoter is selected from the group consisting of CM dextran, collagen and DEAE dextran.

29. (Original) The method of claim 22 wherein said crosslinked polyvinylalcohol microspheres further comprise a marking agent.

30. (Original) The method of claim 29 wherein the marking agent is selected from the group consisting of a dye, an imaging agent and a contrasting agent.

31 – 55. Cancelled.

56. (New) The microspheres of claim 1, wherein the microspheres are comprised of from about 0.5% to about 20% crosslinked polyvinylalcohol by weight in hydrogel form.